TAKE BACK JUSTICE!
occupy avengers™
WALKER • WALTA • BELLAIRE
MARVEL
#6

THERE IS A MAN. AND IF YOU CAN FIND HIM, AND IF HE BELIEVES IN YOUR PLIGHT, HE AND HIS TEAM WILL DO WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE.

SOME CALL THEM OUTLAWS, REBELS, ROBIN HOODS. TO MANY, THEY ARE HEROES. NO POWERS TO SPEAK OF, JUST SKILLS, SMARTS AND THE DRIVE TO PUT THINGS RIGHT.

OCCUPY AVENGERS

HAWKEYE'S TEAM IS STUCK IN DUNGSTON, IOWA UNTIL THEY GET THEIR NEW VAN FIXED--BUT NOT JUST ANY MECHANIC CAN FIX A VEHICLE TAKEN FROM A S.H.I.E.L.D. BLACK SITE, SO HAWKEYE CALLED IN AN OLD FRIEND NAMED WHEELS WOLINSKI TO CHECK OUT THEIR WEIRD NEW RIDE.

BUT THE LOCALS WEREN'T HAPPY THAT AN AVENGER AND HIS FRIENDS WERE STAYING AT THE HOTEL--BECAUSE SOME OF THEM ARE MEMBERS OF A SHAPE-SHIFTING RACE OF ALIENS CALLED SKRULLS. THE TOWNSPEOPLE MOBILIZED TO TAKE THE TEAM OUT BEFORE THEY CAUGHT ON--ONLY TO FIND THEMSELVES UNDER ATTACK BY A MYSTERIOUS GROUP OF MEN IN BLACK VANS!

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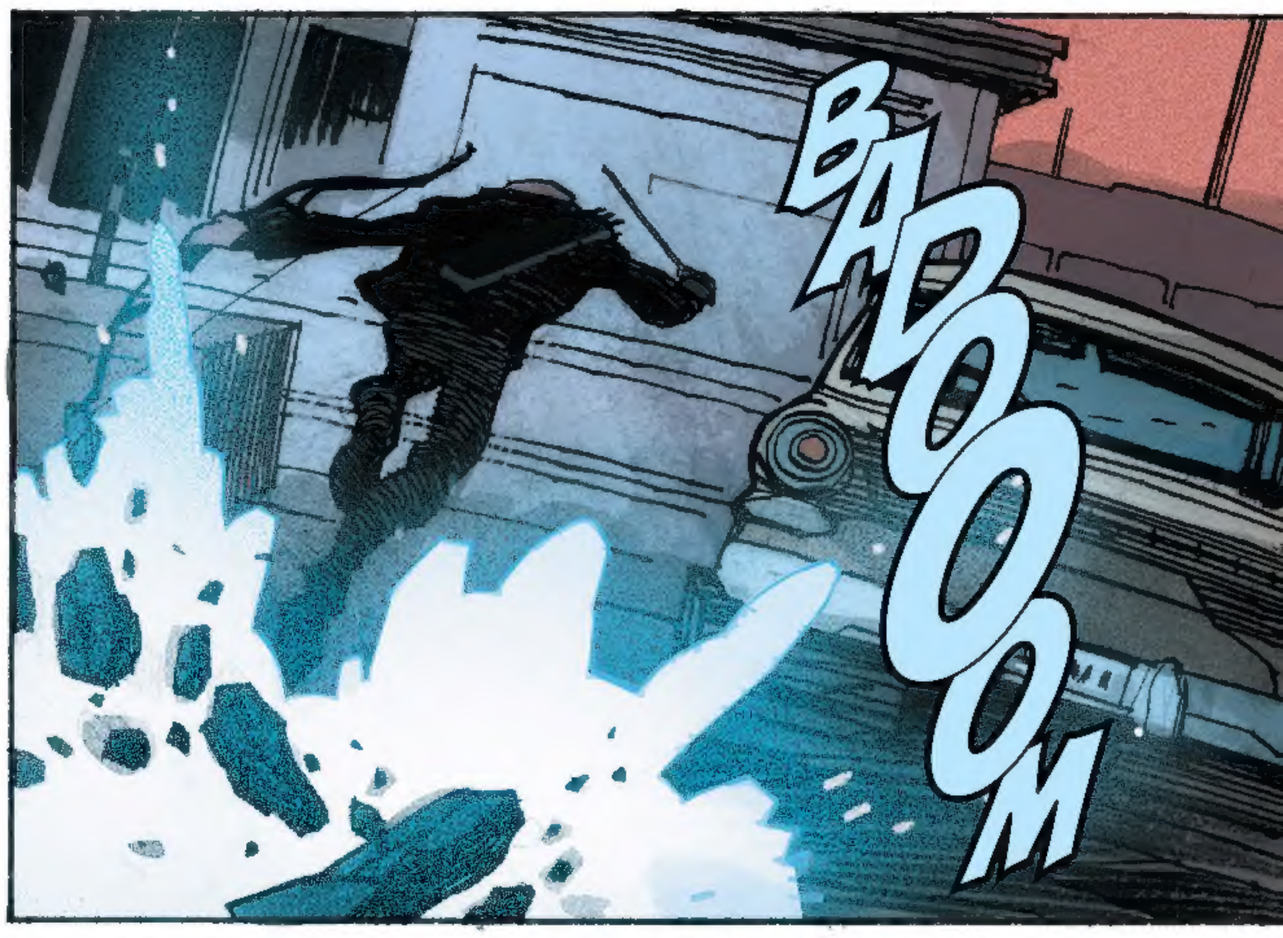
THE APARTMENT OF NICO "WHEELS" WOLINSKI, THE BRONX.
TWELVE HOURS AGO...
BARTON, I TOLD YOU TO NEVER CALL ME AGAIN--NOT AFTER WHAT HAPPENED LAST TIME.
I OWE YOU?!
THE LAST TIME I HELPED YOU, MY WHEELCHAIR GOT BLOWN UP. BLOWN UP!
YOU KNOW HOW MUCH IT COST ME TO REBUILD THAT THING?
I KNOW YOU GAVE ME THE MONEY FOR THE REBUILD--THAT'S BEYOND THE POINT.
MY WHEELCHAIR GOT BLOWN UP--WITH ME IN IT!
YOU KNOW WHAT...JUST STOP. I CAN SEE WHERE THIS IS GOING, SO YEAH, I OWE YOU A FAVOR.
LET'S JUST GET THIS OVER WITH, WE CAN BE SQUARE, AND YOU'LL LEAVE ME ALONE. GIVE ME A COUPLE OF DAYS...
YOU'LL SEND SOMEONE TO GET ME? LIKE A PRIVATE JET OR SOMETHING?

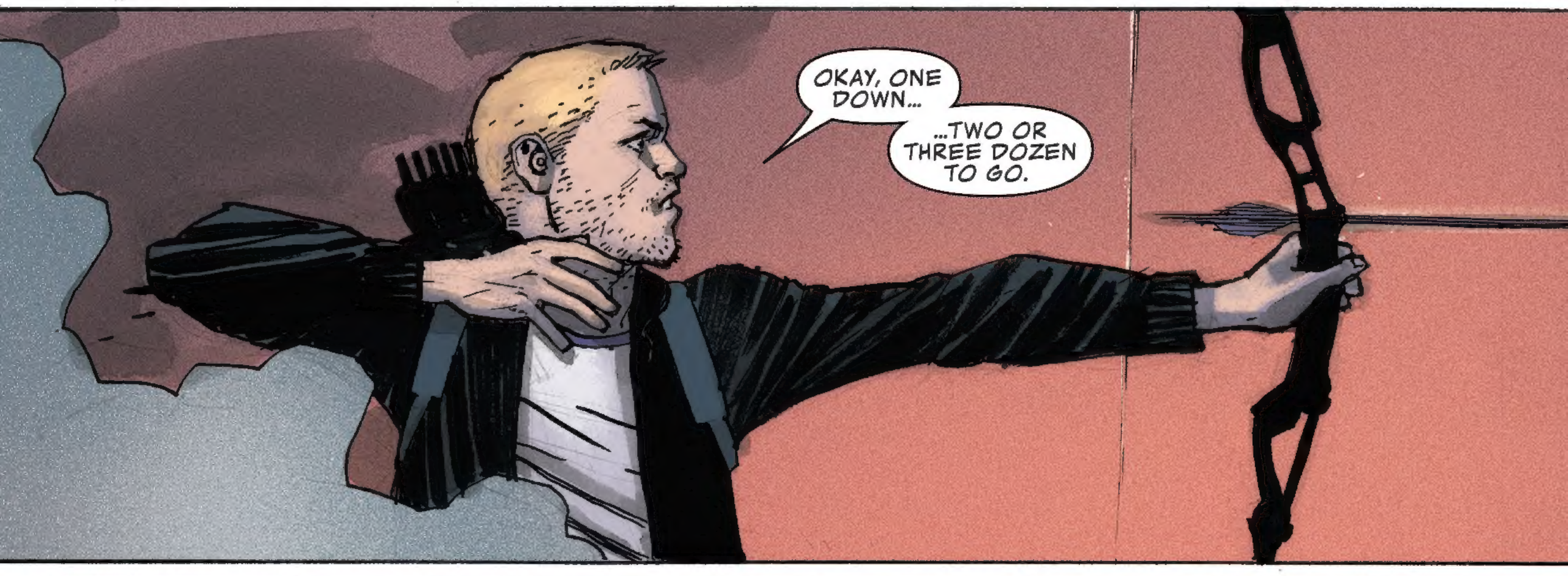
OH, MAN. OH, MAN. OH, MAN.
I JUST CAME TO FIX THE VAN.
EVER FEEL LIKE LIFE IS A BIG PRACTICAL JOKE BEING PLAYED ON YOU?
EVERYWHERE I GO, DEATH AND DESTRUCTION FOLLOW.
OR MAYBE LIFE IS ONE BAD MISUNDERSTANDING AFTER ANOTHER?
OR MAYBE IT'S THE SCREWUPS BETWEEN THE TIME YOU'RE BORN AND THE TIME YOU DIE?
Lenny's
THIS IS GOING TO BE GOOD.
AND IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT.
OF ALL THE PLACES THE VAN COULD BREAK DOWN...
DUNGSTON, IOWA.
MANURE CAPITAL OF THE STATE. RIGHT NOW...
I KNOW THERE ARE MORE HERE!
BRING ME ALL OF THEM, OR I WILL KILL EVERYONE--SKRULL AND HUMAN ALIKE!
WELCOME TO MY LIFE.
SOME DAYS ARE A BAD PRACTICAL JOKE.
SOME DAYS ARE A SERIES OF MISUNDERSTANDINGS.
SOME DAYS ARE SCREWUPS.
MOTEL
IT'S ALWAYS THE SAME DAMN THING.
FIGHT...
...OR DIE.
FIGHT...
...OR DIE.
FIGHT...
...OR DIE.
Lenny's
KILL...
...OR BE KILLED.

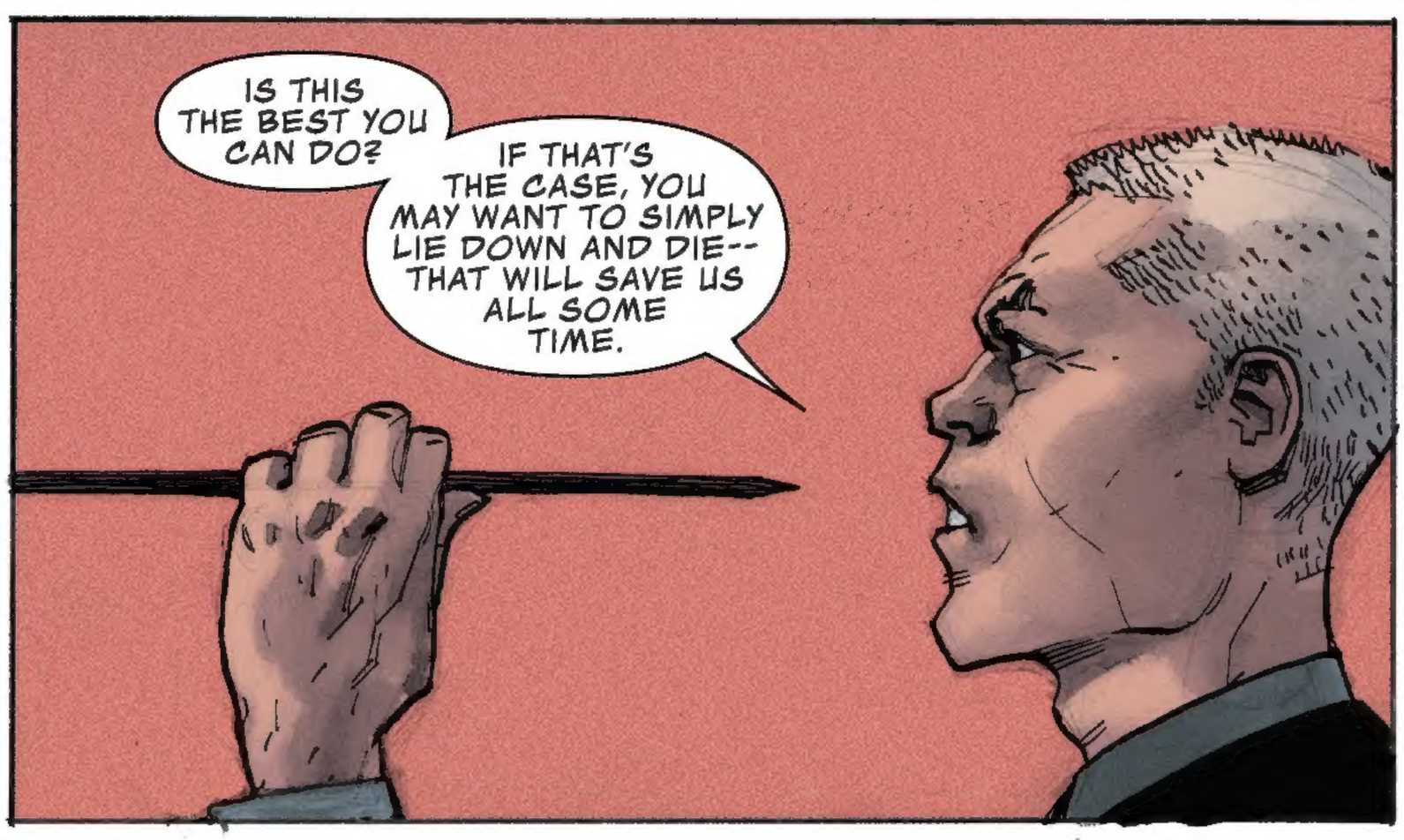
WARNING: DETECTING INCREASING LEVELS OF IONOPLASMIC ENERGY. SHALL I INITIATE DEFENSE PROTOCOLS?
WHAT THE WHAT?!
SOME OF US AREN'T WIRED TO JUST LIE DOWN AND DIE.
YOU CAN TALK?!
HEEE-YAAAH!
WE'RE WIRED TO FIGHT.
STOP!
HEY!
WE'RE WIRED TO KILL.
YOU READY TO BLEED?!
I JUST WANTED TO GET THE VAN FIXED.
IT'S THE SAME OLD SONG.
WAS THAT TOO MUCH TO ASK FOR?
Lenny's
THE SAME OLD DANCE.
AND IT GETS REALLY TIRING AFTER A WHILE.

THWAK
ARGH!
IN THE NAME OF KLY'BN!
BLASPHEMER!

KLY'BN DOESN'T HEAR YOUR CRIES, TRAITOR.
IT IS IN HIS NAME WE ARE HERE.


BADOOM


OKAY, ONE DOWN...
...TWO OR THREE DOZEN TO GO.


IS THIS THE BEST YOU CAN DO?
IF THAT'S THE CASE, YOU MAY WANT TO SIMPLY LIE DOWN AND DIE-- THAT WILL SAVE US ALL SOME TIME.

%$#@!
I BET THESE GUYS ARE KREE BOUNTY HUNTERS.

I KNOW THERE ARE MORE OF YOU HERE!

GIVE YOURSELVES UP...
THIS IS WHAT I GET FOR THINKING THIS WOULD BE EASY.

...OR THE ENTIRE TOWN DIES!
THWACK

JUST LIKE RIDING A BIKE.
IF IT BLEEDS...

...TILDA CAN MAKE IT BLEED SOME MORE.

HUMAN SCUM!
HEY! DON'T TOUCH THE MERCHANDISE!

YOU WILL SUFFER FOR YOUR INTERFERENCE!

BANG

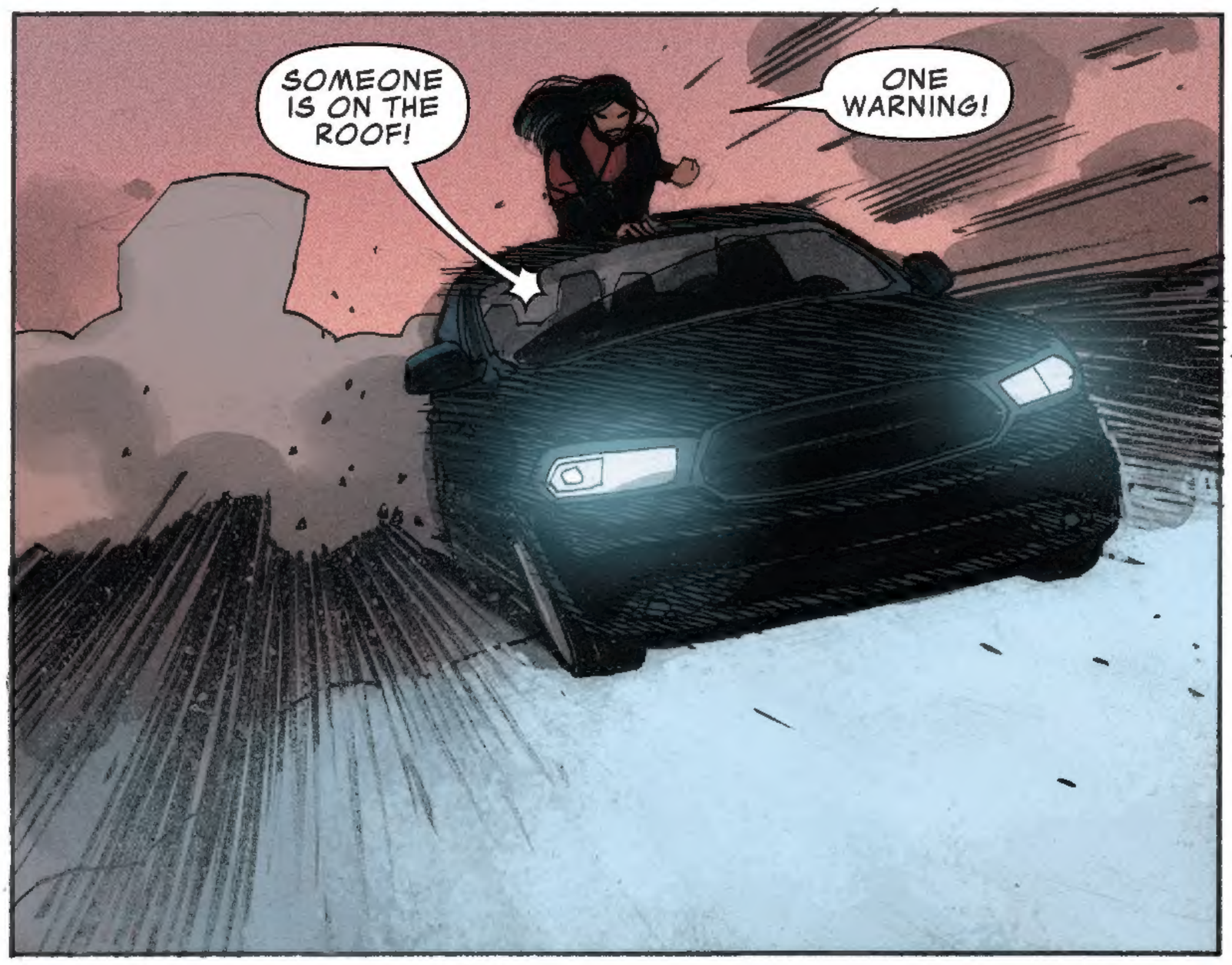
PLEASE. DON'T HURT US.
SWEET MOMS MABLEY... YOU'RE A...

YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE ME--WE'RE NOT THE ENEMY HERE.
IT'S THEM. THEY'VE COME FOR US.
THEY'RE GOING TO KILL US ALL.

YOU HOLD ON TO THE GUN, KID...

...I WANT TO TEST THIS OUT.

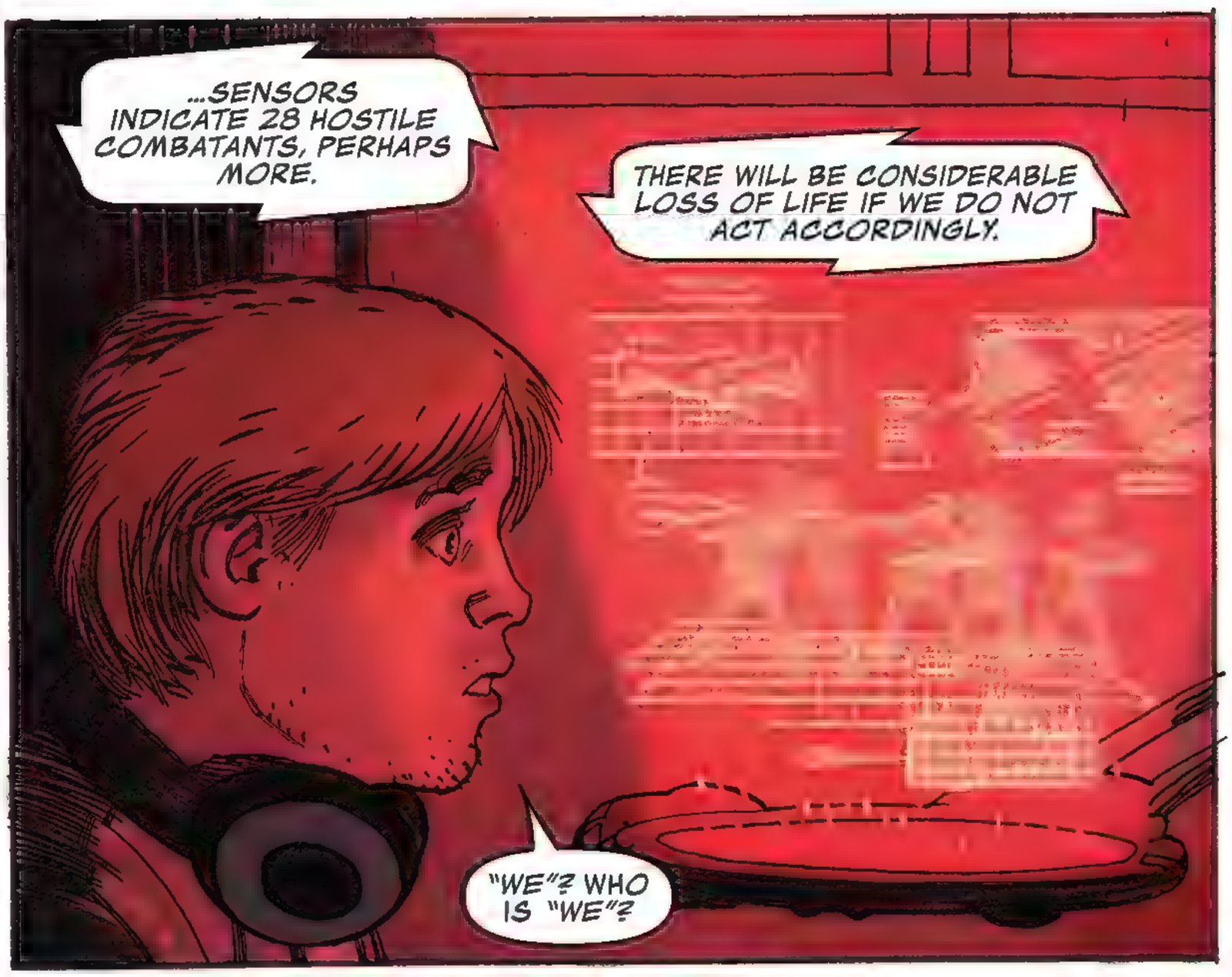
PLEASE... DON'T DO THIS TO US.


SOMEONE IS ON THE ROOF!
ONE WARNING!

SURRENDER NOW!

KILL HIM!
ZABLAST
YOU ARE NOT THE FIRST TO TRY AND KILL ME...
...AND IF YOU ARE THE LAST...
...SOME WILL BE TAKING THAT JOURNEY WITH ME.
THAT CHOICE IS UP TO YOU.
STAND DOWN...
CRAAASH
...OR I WILL BREAK YOU!
YOU WERE WARNED.

WAIT! WHAT?
HOW ARE YOU DOING THIS?
TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE...


...SENSORS INDICATE 28 HOSTILE COMBATANTS, PERHAPS MORE.
THERE WILL BE CONSIDERABLE LOSS OF LIFE IF WE DO NOT ACT ACCORDINGLY.
"WE"? WHO IS "WE"?

YOU AND I.
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT YOU MEANT--LIKE KITT AND MICHAEL.
THAT WAS HASSELHOFF AT HIS BEST.
BUT I CAN'T...

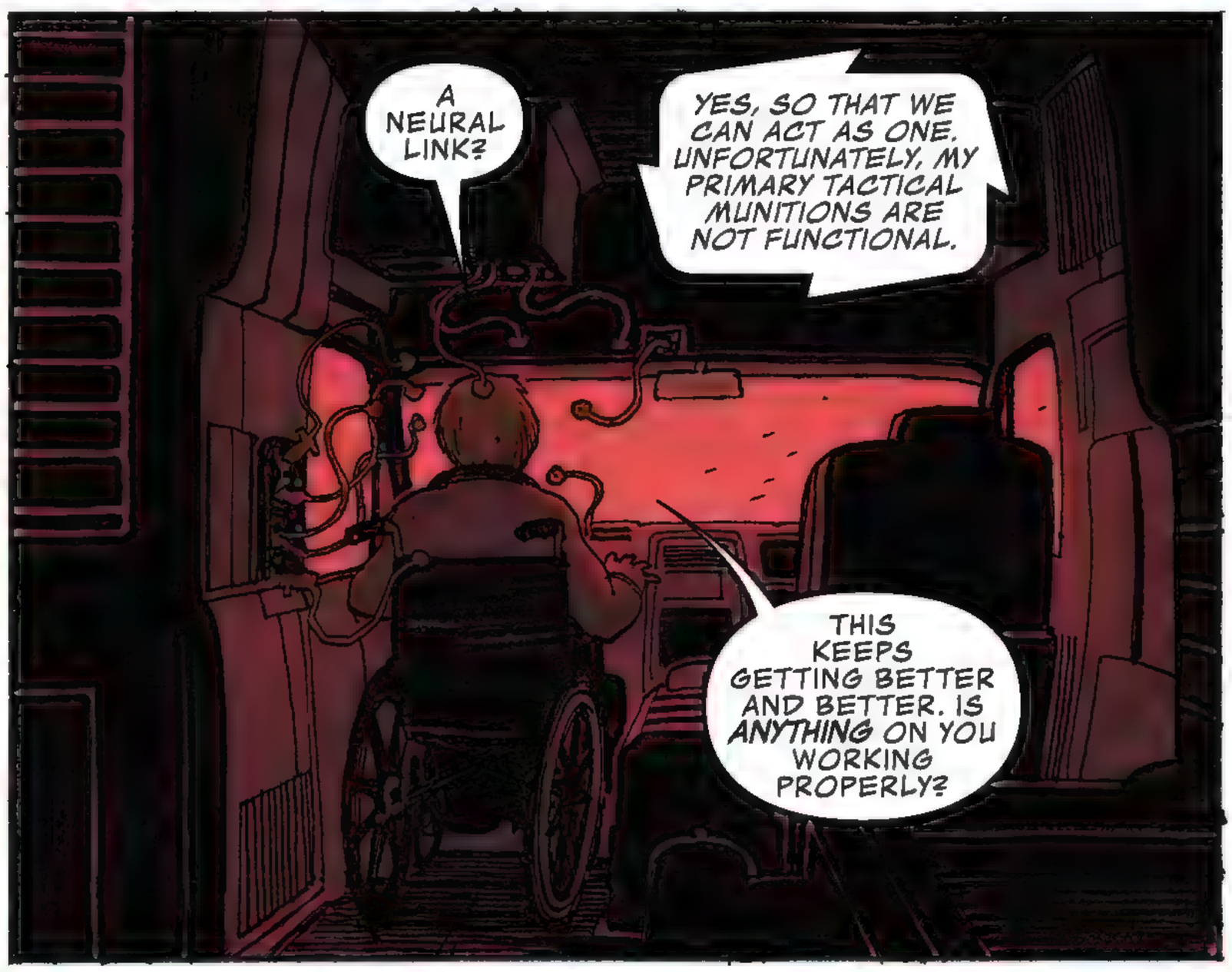
YES, YOU CAN. TOGETHER, YOU AND I CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
YEAH... BUT...I MEAN...

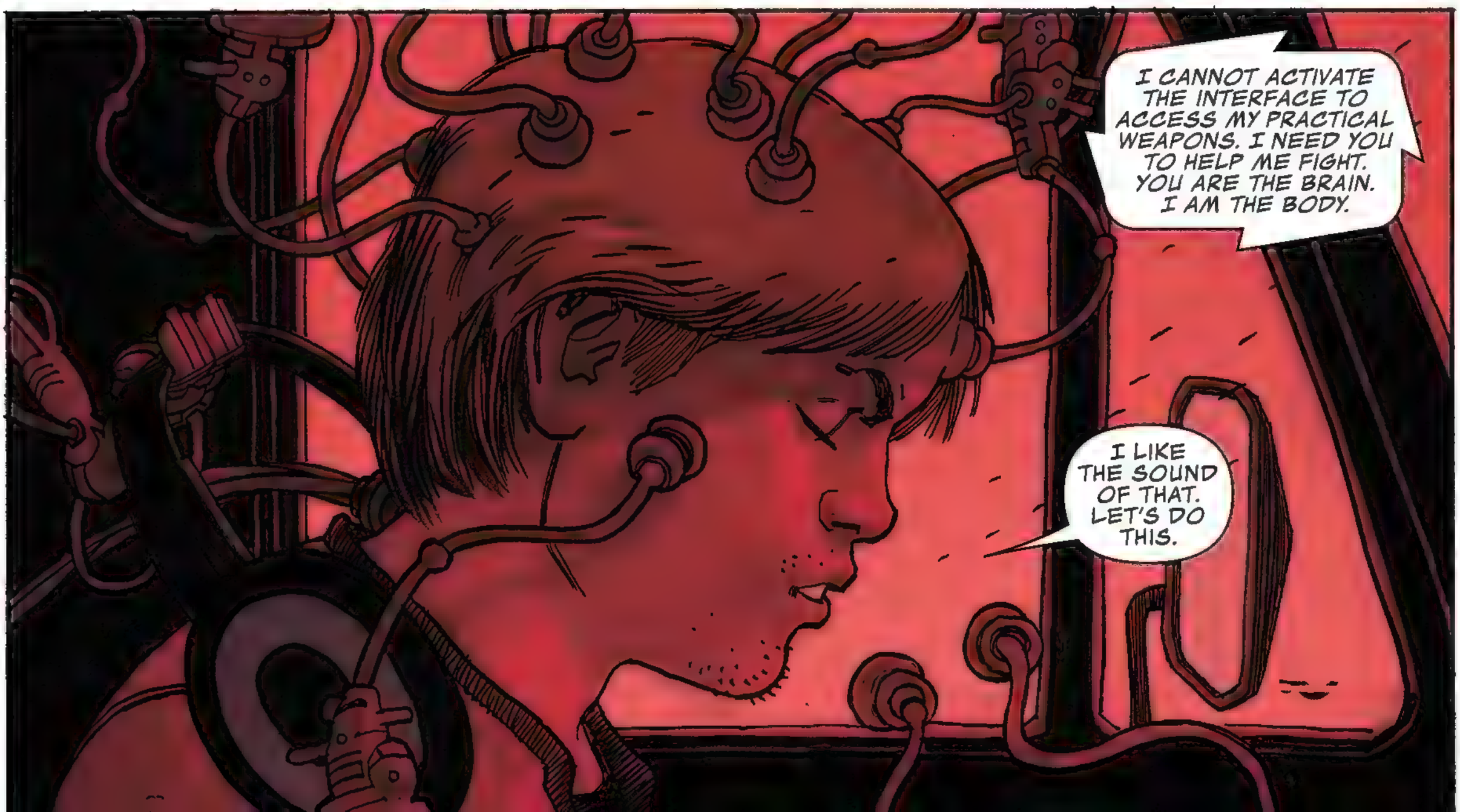
...WHO ARE YOU?
NOT "WHO." "WHAT."

I AM THE OPERATING SYSTEM OF THIS VEHICLE...
WAIT-- ARE YOU SELF-AWARE?
I DO NOT KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS. THERE IS A MALFUNCTION IN SOME OF MY OPERATION PROTOCOLS.

AND YET YOU'RE CONVINCED THAT TOGETHER WE CAN STOP THOSE WHACKOS SHOOTING UP THE TOWN?
YES. I AM A TACTICAL UNIT, BUT MY AUTOMATED COMBAT PROGRAMMING IS OFFLINE. I NEED SOMEONE TO MANUALLY OPERATE MY COMBAT SYSTEMS.

THIS BETTER NOT HURT.
I AM CREATING A NEURAL LINK. IT WILL TAKE SEVERAL MINUTES.


A NEURAL LINK?
YES, SO THAT WE CAN ACT AS ONE. UNFORTUNATELY, MY PRIMARY TACTICAL MUNITIONS ARE NOT FUNCTIONAL.
THIS KEEPS GETTING BETTER AND BETTER. IS ANYTHING ON YOU WORKING PROPERLY?


I CANNOT ACTIVATE THE INTERFACE TO ACCESS MY PRACTICAL WEAPONS. I NEED YOU TO HELP ME FIGHT. YOU ARE THE BRAIN. I AM THE BODY.
I LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT. LET'S DO THIS.

THERE'S TOO MANY OF THEM, SHERIFF!
WE CAN'T WIN THIS FIGHT!
WE CAN DIE TRYING! THIS IS OUR TOWN!

THOSE BASTARDS ARE USING OUR PEOPLE AS SHIELDS!

BANG
NO! WATCH YOUR FIRE!

ZABLAST
AIIIEEE!

ZANDER!
HOLD ON, OLD FRIEND.

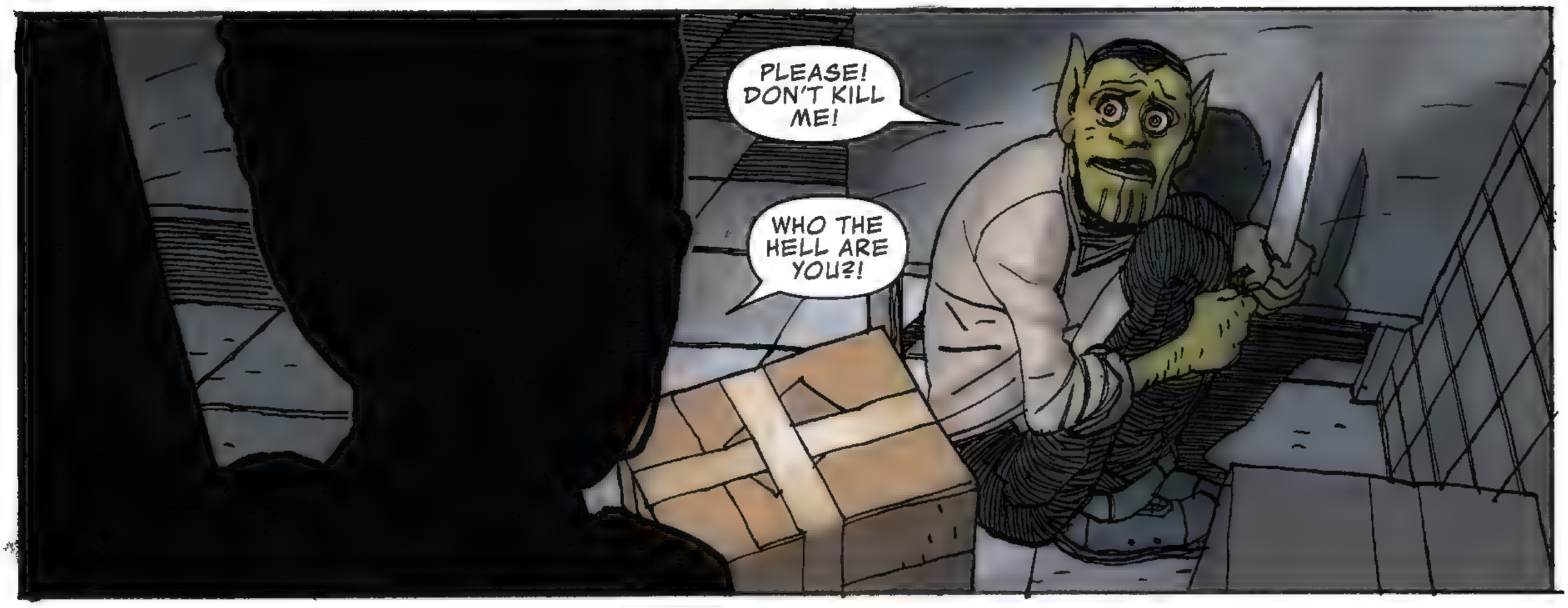
THANK YOU FOR...
NO!
"THIS ISN'T GOOD..."

...THEY JUST SHOT A COP, WHO IS REALLY A SKRULL.
MY SUPERIOR INTELLECT IS HAVING TROUBLE WRAPPING ITSELF AROUND ALL OF THIS.
THIS WAY IS TOO DANGEROUS. FOLLOW ME.

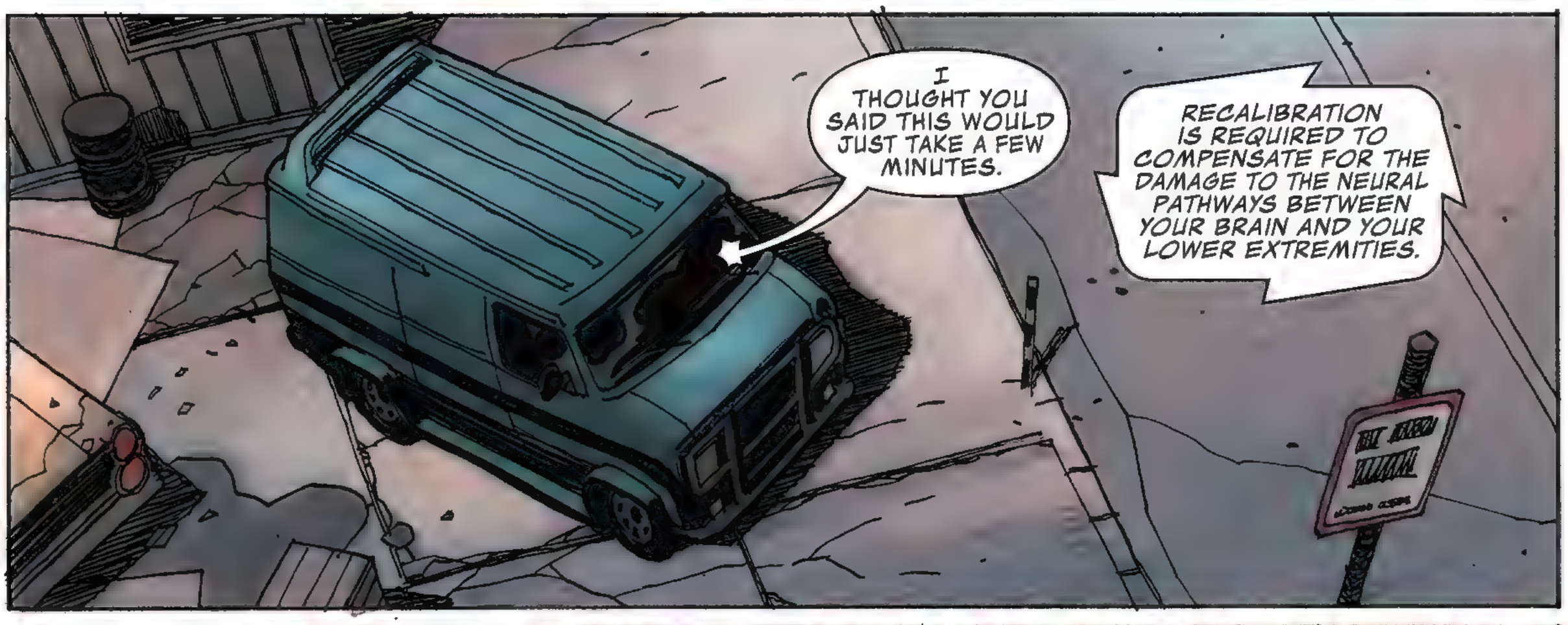
FOLLOW YOU? WHERE?

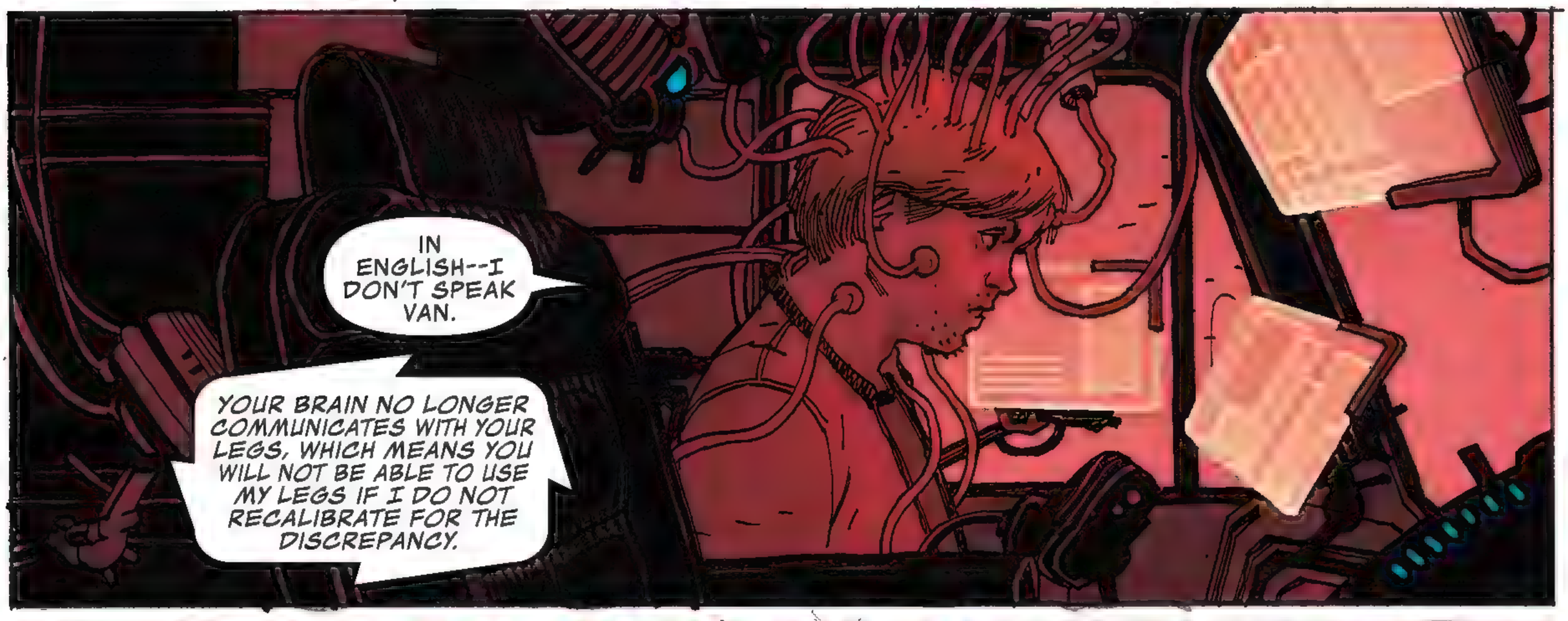
THERE IS A BACK DOOR IN THE KITCHEN. YOU CAN GET OUT THAT WAY.
YES, IT WILL GIVE YOU A TACTICAL ADVANTAGE.

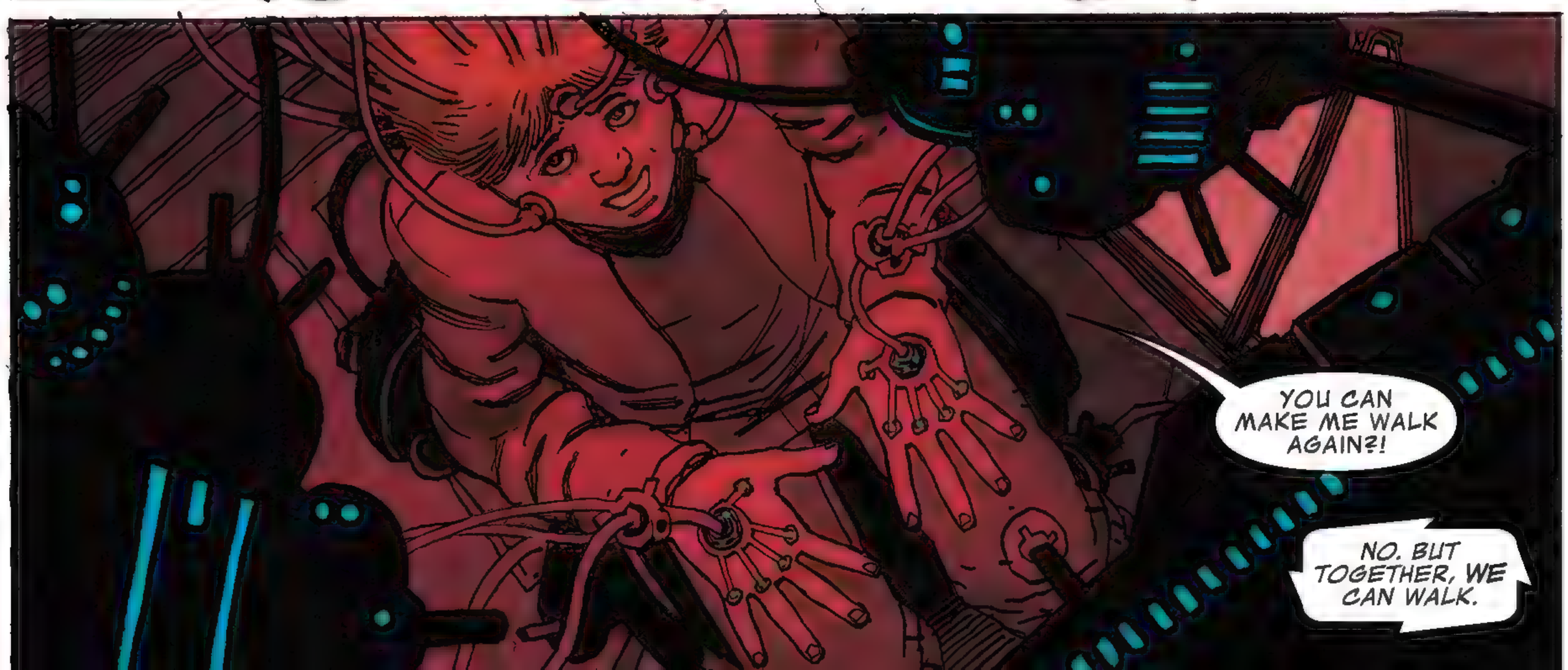
GREAT. I'M TAKING COMBAT ADVICE FROM A SKRULL DISGUISED AS A LITTLE GIRL.


PLEASE! DON'T KILL ME!
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!

IGNORE HIM. HE'S A COWARD. HE WANTS TO LIVE IN PEACE, BUT HE'S NOT WILLING TO KILL FOR IT.
DAMN, KID--YOU ALWAYS SO JUDGMENTAL?


I THOUGHT YOU SAID THIS WOULD JUST TAKE A FEW MINUTES.
RECALIBRATION IS REQUIRED TO COMPENSATE FOR THE DAMAGE TO THE NEURAL PATHWAYS BETWEEN YOUR BRAIN AND YOUR LOWER EXTREMITIES.


IN ENGLISH--I DON'T SPEAK VAN.
YOUR BRAIN NO LONGER COMMUNICATES WITH YOUR LEGS, WHICH MEANS YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO USE MY LEGS IF I DO NOT RECALIBRATE FOR THE DISCREPANCY.


YOU CAN MAKE ME WALK AGAIN?!
NO. BUT TOGETHER, WE CAN WALK.

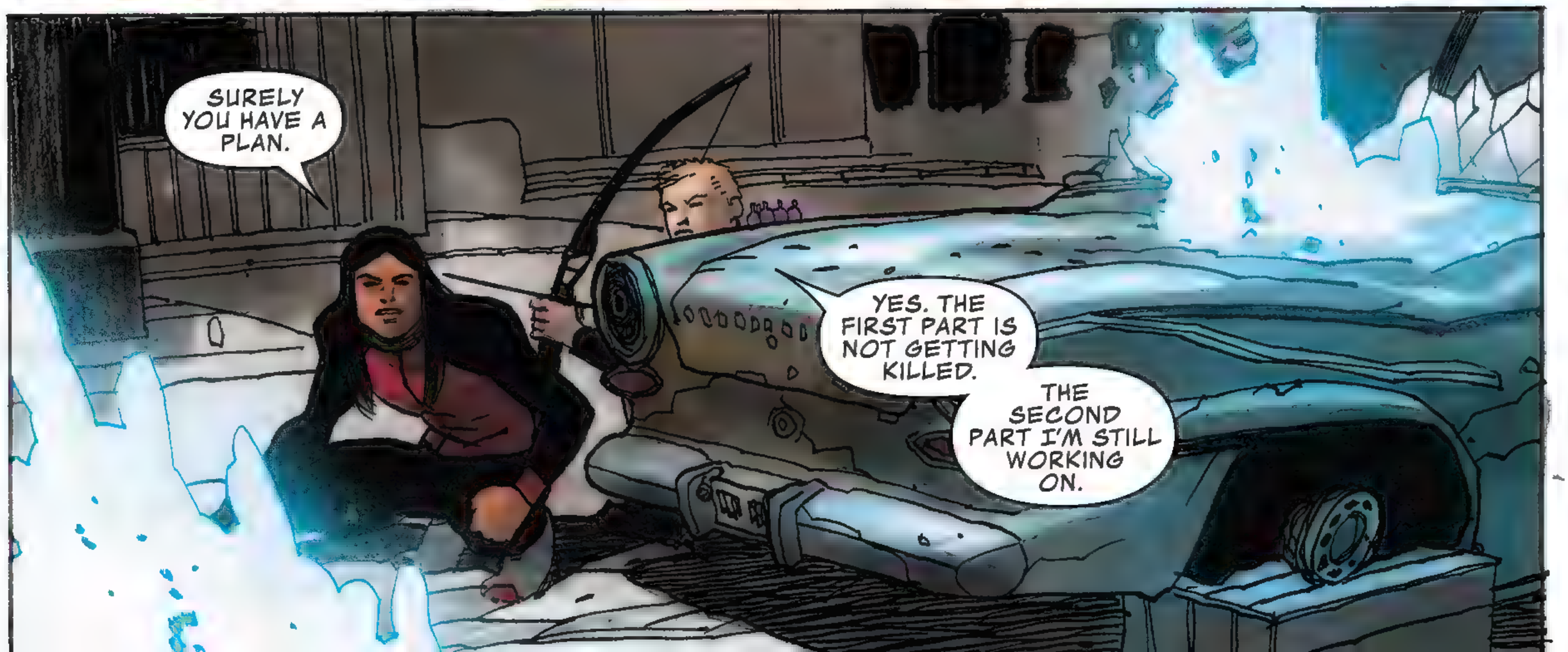
LET ME EXPLAIN LIFE
YOU'RE MINDING YOUR OWN BUSINESS, WHEN YOU FIND YOURSELF IN A TOWN POPULATED BY SKRULLS, THAT'S BEEN INVADED BY KREE MERCENARIES OUT FOR BLOOD.
AND IT SMELLS LIKE COW MANURE EVERYWHERE.
BUT THE WORST PART IS THAT YOU'VE BEEN IN RELATIONSHIPS MORE VOLATILE.

SKRULLS, HAWKEYE.
WHAT?

THOSE ARE SKRULLS, CORRECT?
WE'RE IN A SAM PECKINPAH MOVIE COME TO LIFE, AND YOU'RE LOOKING THINGS UP ON YOUR PHONE, WOLF?
SAM PECKING-PAW?

NEVER MIND--THERE'S NO TIME FOR YOU TO LOOK HIM UP, TOO. JUST GIVE ME THAT THING.
YES, THE UGLY GREEN PEOPLE WITH PRUNE-LIKE CHINS ARE SKRULLS. BUT THE MEN HUNTING THEM...

...I'D BET EVERYTHING THAT THEY'RE KREE BOUNTY HUNTERS.
IT SAYS HERE THAT THE KREE AND THE SKRULLS HAVE BEEN AT WAR FOR MILLENNIA.
BINGO, BANGO, BONGO. AND WE'RE CAUGHT IN ONE OF THEIR SKIRMISHES.


SURELY YOU HAVE A PLAN.
YES. THE FIRST PART IS NOT GETTING KILLED.
THE SECOND PART I'M STILL WORKING ON.

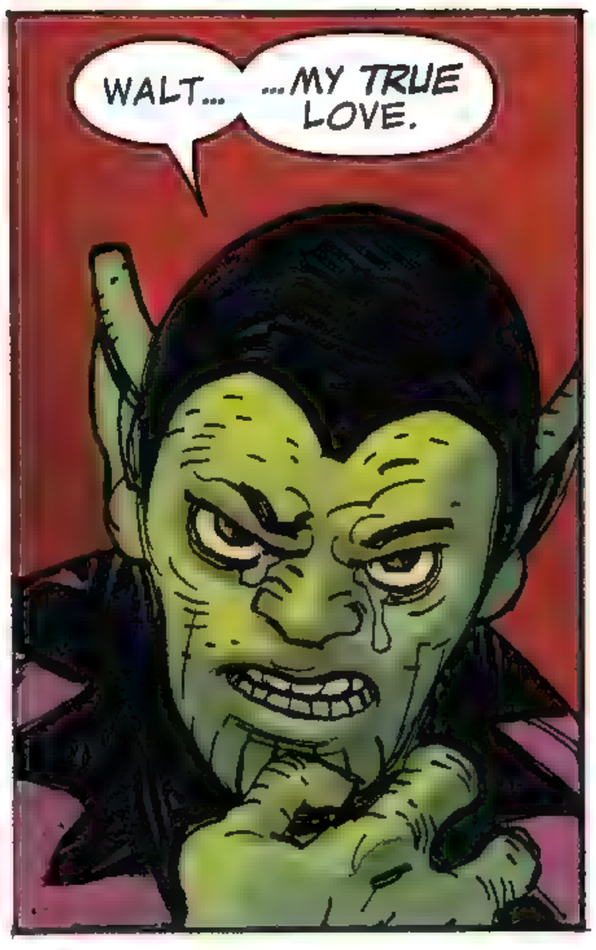
I KNOW THERE IS MORE THAN THIS!
I WANT THEM ALL!

ZABLAST
UH...

WALT?
HOW MANY MORE OF YOU HUMAN FOOLS WILL DIE PROTECTING THEM?!

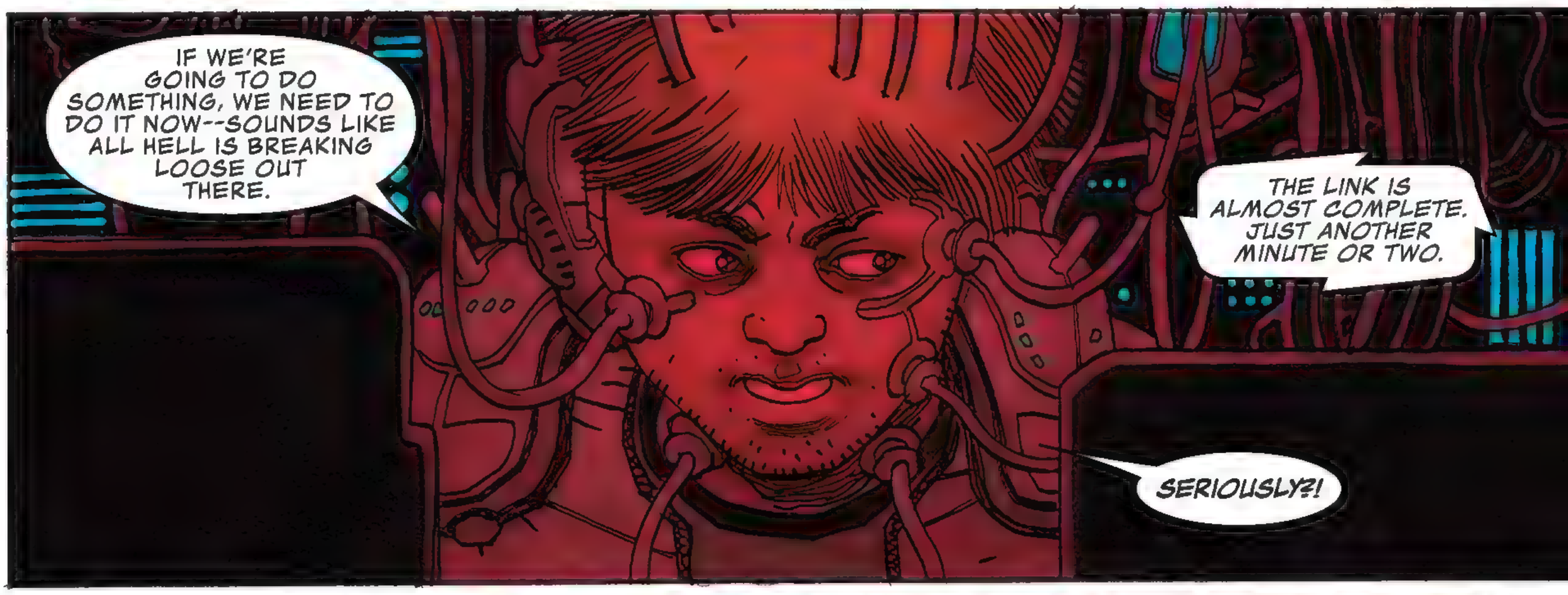
WALT...

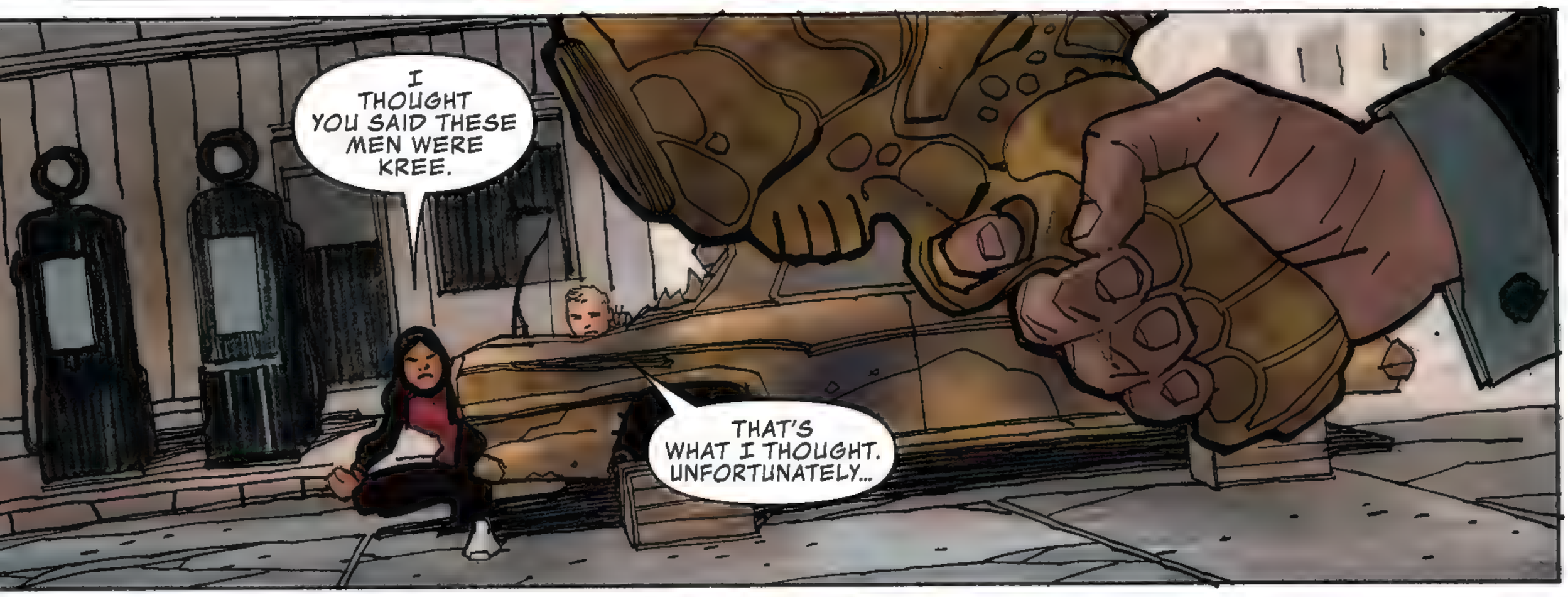
...MY LOVE.

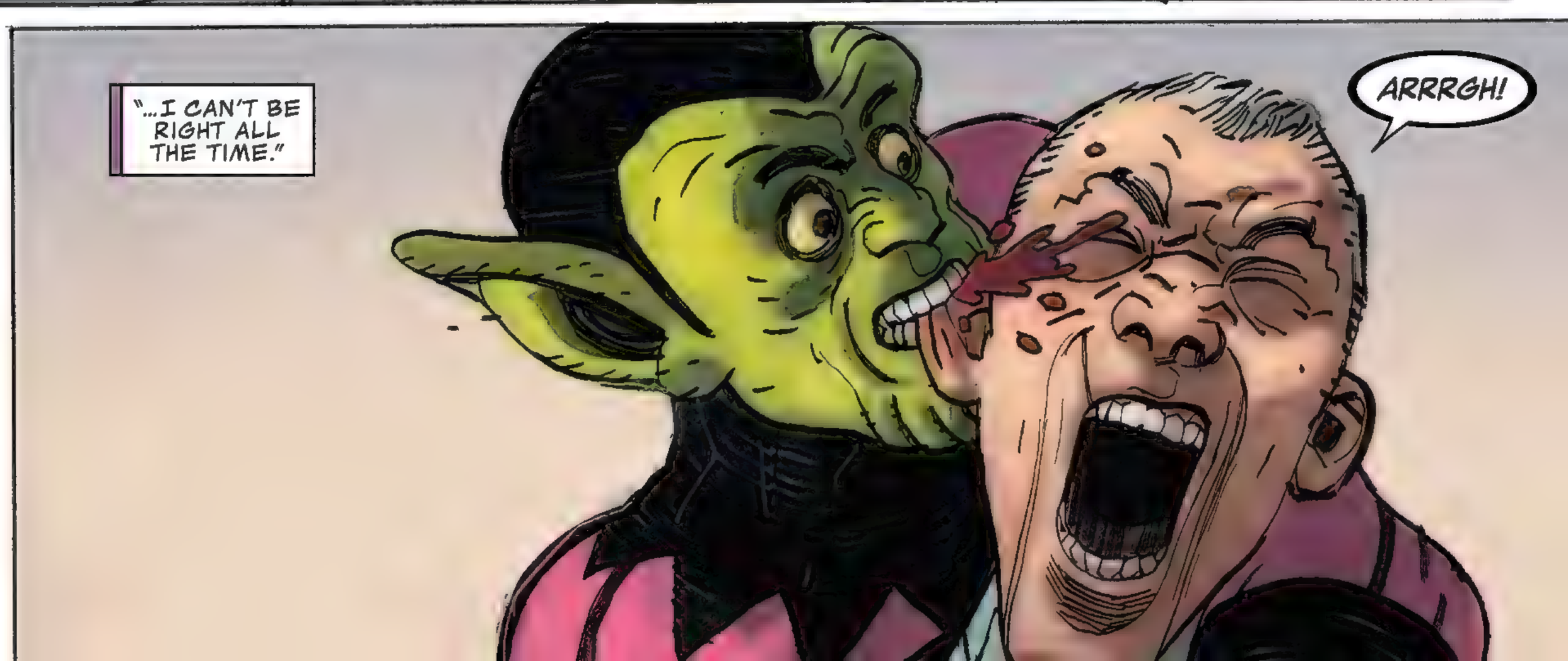

WALT...
...MY TRUE LOVE.

YOU KILLED WALT!
GET OFF ME!

WHAT IS IT?
THE $%#@ IS HITTING THE FAN, HERE IN THE MANURE CAPITAL OF IOWA.


IF WE'RE GOING TO DO SOMETHING, WE NEED TO DO IT NOW--SOUNDS LIKE ALL HELL IS BREAKING LOOSE OUT THERE.
THE LINK IS ALMOST COMPLETE. JUST ANOTHER MINUTE OR TWO.
SERIOUSLY?!


I THOUGHT YOU SAID THESE MEN WERE KREE.
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT. UNFORTUNATELY...


"...I CAN'T BE RIGHT ALL THE TIME."
ARRRGH!

IS THERE A PLAN TO THIS THING CALLED LIFE...?

YOU KILLED WALT!

TRAITOR!

YOU ARE THE PLAGUE OF THE EMPIRE!

YOU KILLED MY HUSBAND!

ARE WE ALL BEING MOVED AROUND LIKE PIECES ON SOME KIND OF COSMIC CHESSBOARD?

IF THAT'S THE CASE...

YOU WILL DIE!

YOU WILL ALL DIE!

ALTHOUGH TO BE HONEST-- WHOEVER IS RUNNING THIS SHOW...

...THEY SEEM TO HATE EVERYONE.

SO...YOU KNOW...THERE'S NO POINT IN TAKING IT PERSONALLY.

TO BE CONTINUED...

OCCUPY THE LETTERS PAGE!

So, what did I like most? Was it how you managed to gracefully bring back Hawkeye's character from something I thought he would never recover from? Or how you went back to basics, strictly followed his core characterization, made Clint Barton himself again and reminded everyone who he really is and what he stands for? Can't tell, but thank you either way. He really means so much to me, SO MUCH, and you did him justice. I absolutely love Red Wolf and his relationship with Clint, too. This might be one of my favorite team-ups ever, especially now with Tilda. They are like the people's Avengers now, and it's really touching. I love everything about this comic. Keep this good stuff coming.

Tony Samir
Egypt

Honestly, I think fans of Hawkeye may be the most dedicated in all of fandom. I suspected this going into OCCUPY AVENGERS, and it intimidated me. I spent a lot of time reading older stories starring Clint, really trying to get a sense of his character. Thank you for reaching out, and letting me know that he is resonating with you.

I LOVE Hawkeye. He has been my favorite Marvel character since I bought a stack of random vintage comics at a flea market when I was 12 years old. It contained the first WEST COAST AVENGERS comics that started my somewhat spotty collection. Ever since, I have enthusiastically bought up every old and new comic that may contain him that I can find at my local comic book store. Some newer issues, I feel, haven't quite done his character justice--no offense meant to the people who worked on them, but I am extremely protective of Hawkeye and feel I understand him. OCCUPY AVENGERS, though, lives up to my expectations, and more. I love everything about it. The art is beautifully done, the bad guys are classic and the writing is some of the best (if not the best) I have ever read in a comic.

The first two issues are amazing, and I hope you keep up the "helping out the little guys" angle. There are so many series out there working the S.H.I.E.L.D. conspiracy or global conquest angle, that Hawkeye traveling across the country just trying right wrongs and make the country a better place is really refreshing. Clint and Red Wolf are pretty much my ultimate dream-team. I've always wanted there to be more of a Native American influence to go along with Clint's long-time love of the Old West, and the two heroes just look great together. I just love the image of a white guy wielding bow and arrows alongside a Native American man with tomahawks. It hearkens back to the *Last of the Mohicans* Hawkeye and Chingachgook friendship.

Also, I like the *Smoke Signals,* Thomas and Victor type of vibe going on with Frank and Silas Fireheart. It's really cool that they ended up becoming heroes themselves and were able to help their people.

I hope this series goes on for a good long time and look forward to finding out who the next members of this new Avengers team will be. Thank you all for giving me something truly amazing to look forward to every month.

Sincerely,
Katie Rosenau
Prineville, Oregon

Thank you for mentioning Frank and Silas Fireheart. I really fell in love with those characters, and feel like they are at the heart and soul of what we're trying to do with this series, which is empower everyday people to take a stand for themselves.

Hawkeye is quoting Jeff Spicoli?! Unbelievably cool, guys, nice work. (For those of you too young to have caught it, there is a *Fast Times at Ridgemont High* reference in issue #4...)

I'll admit I was lukewarm about the series, but every issue has added depth and interest, and I find this book moving to the top of my pile each month.

The brief recap history and ultimate inclusion of Tilda in the team seems organic rather than forced, and I am very much looking forward to the interaction of all three members of the team. I am leery of adding anyone else to this perfect trifecta, but I trust you guys implicitly at this point.

Thanks for putting out a compelling, alternative AVENGERS book, folks.

Blair Bush

By the time you read this letter, you will have met the newest member of the team, Wheels Wolinksi, former member of Wolfpack. Hopefully, you'll like Wheels, as he's someone I really wanted to resurrect from the depths of obscurity, and I think he's a great fit on this team of misfits.

DFW,

Still reading, still with you all the way! The thing about Nick Fury turning out to be an LMD? Not too obvious. Makes me wonder, right now anyway, what a S.H.I.E.L.D. unit/organization run by both Nick Fury Jr. and Nick Fury Sr. would be like! I mean, someone needs to take the reins of S.H.I.E.L.D., besides that nerd Coulson; plus, Maria Hill is gone, and Steve Rogers is baaaaaad. Back to OA! Deadly Nightshade is the newest member? Are they ever gonna get someone with actual powers? 'Cause Tigra would be a step up, in many ways, at this point. As for this issue--that's #4 chronologically speaking--can we have just a little less conversation and a little more action? I know that's kind of an AVENGERS cliché thing to say...and a song...but it applies.

Cheers,
Andrew J. Shaw

Actual powers? C'mon…that's boring. As for more action…I think we got it covered. I think. The thing about me is that I feel action is best served as a side dish, but not as the main meal.

I've been meaning to write in ever since this came out. The Fraction/Aja Hawkeye run is what brought me back to comics, and I love seeing Clint in action as the main focus again! I also really enjoy seeing him fight these more personal fights.

Speaking of personal fights, I hope you'll consider a crossover with Black Widow. Those two are such a great fit. And they have unfinished business ;-) (interweb cookies, if you get that reference).

Sheri in Kansas

All I can say is that Clint is going to face his most personal battle very soon. It ain't gonna be easy for him.

-David

NEXT ISSUE:

TURF WAR!

ZONE